द्वारा ईंट भट्ठा उद्योग को प्रेषित किए गए कोयले का ब्यौरा नीचे दिया गया है :—

अगस्त, 1991	11 रैक
सितम्बर, 1991	2 रैक
अक्तूबर, 1991	8 रैक
नवम्बर, 1991	63 रैक
दिसम्बर, 1991	55 रैक
जनवरी, 1992	30 रैक

(ग) ईंट भट्ठा उद्योग को काफी मात्रा में कोयला उपलब्ध किए जाने के लिए कोल इंडिया लि० ने पश्चिम बंगाल को छोड़कर, विभिन्न राज्यों में स्थित प्रायोजित यूनिटों को प्रतिमाह लगभग 9.7 लाख टन कोयले की आपूर्ति किए जाने की व्यवस्था की है । पश्चिम बंगाल की ईंट भट्ठा यूनिटों को ईस्टर्न कोलफील्ड्स लि० की कोलियरियों से तथा राज्य में प्रचालित कोल इंडिया लि० के स्टाकयार्डों से आपूर्ति की जाती है, जो कि इन उपभोक्ताओं के आवंटन पर और संबद्ध स्टाकयार्डों तथा पिटहैडों पर कोयले की उपलब्धता पर निर्भर करती है । कोयले की आपूर्ति सभी उपभोक्ताओं को, जिसमें ईंट भट्ठा उद्योग शामिल है, सड़क द्वारा "प्रथम आओ—प्रथम पाओ" के आधार पर एक समय में 1000 टन तक "उदारीकृत बिक्री योजना" के अंतर्गत भी आपूर्ति की जाती है ।

Fires in Jharia coalfields

1219. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) since when fires have been raging in the Jharia coalfields in Bihar;

(b) the areas covered by these fires and the estimated quantity of coal damaged due to these fires so far;

(c) what are the causes of these fires;

(d) whether it is a fact that the World Bank and the United Nations Development Fund (UNDP) have expressed their willingness to assist in the efforts to put out the fires in collaboration with the Government agencies of the United States;

(e) if so, Government's reaction in this regard; and

(f) whether any action plan has been worked out to control the fire, if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) and (b) There were 70 fires in Jharia Coalfields covering an area of 17.32 Sq. Km. since a long time before the nationalisation of Coking Coal mines. The first fire in this coalfield was reported in the year 1916. It is difficult to make precise estimate of loss of coal reserves caused by fires. However, the coal company have estimated that coal reserves to an extent of about 37 million tonnes might have been damaged in these fires.

(c) Most of the fires of Jharia Coalfield have originated from spontaneous combustion of coal in shallow underground mines or on the surface due to unscientific mining practices in the past resulting broken coal being left in the mines which caught fire.

(d) and (e) The size of the problem being very large the Government have been exploiting the possibilities of obtaining financial as well as technical assistance from the foreign countries to deal with these fires. One project for dealing with

coalfield fires has been posed for UNDP assistance. In addition, some private overseas agencies/companies have also expressed interest in participating in dealing with the problem of fires in Jharia Coalfield. However no decision has so far been taken by the Government to entrust the work to any foreign company.

(f) After nationalisation of coal mines concerted efforts have been made through implementation of various schemes for dealing with major fires of Jharia Coalfield. As a result of these efforts, five fires have been successfully extinguished. At 16 sites fires have been contained and the work to completely extinguish these fires is in progress. The remaining fire projects are at the various stages of implementation. Effective monitoring of the progress of the fire projects for improvement of the effectiveness of the control of mine operation is being done.

Retrenchment of personnel in Coal India Limited

1220. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the World Bank has identified 50,000 personnel in Coal India Limited as "surplus" staff who need to be retrenched immediately as a measure to make the public undertaking economically viable; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) and (b) No, Sir, It is not a fact that the World Bank identified 50,000 personnel in Coal India Ltd. as surplus staff who need to be retrenched. A three menber World Bank team was in India during January-February, 1991 for review of the progress of on-going proejcts. This team during their meetings (in Coal India Ltd. and Department of Coal) had discussed various issues related to coal projects including *inter-alia* the ways and means to improve financial performance of Coal Sector and the the modalities of redeployment of surplus workers if any, from mines that are closed down due to deplation of coal reserves and reduction in unproductive manpower with a view to improving output per manshift.

These points were discussed generally and neither any figure about excess number of workers was mentioned nor was any specific suggestion received from World Bank.

Cash and Carry Schemes for distribution of Coal

1221. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have started cash and Carry Scheme for distribution of coal to the consumers ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the scheme is causing hardships to the consumers ; and

(c) if so, what action Government propose to remove complication involved in the scheme ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA) : (a) to (c) : State Electricity Boards and other power Utilities had accumulated arrears of over Rs. 1800 crores as on 31·8·91 payable to Coal India Limited (CIL) towards price of coal supplied to them. The arrears were on the increase and CIL was finding it difficult to manage their cash flow. Ministry of Coal therefore advised CIL to start supplying coal to the State Electricity Boards